

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP

6:00 PM WORKSHOP 7:00 PM REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 25, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Carolyn Chang. Requirements of the Sunshine Law were read. This meeting was advertised in the Burlington County Times January 3, 2014. The flag was saluted and there was a moment of silence.

Roll Call:

Committeeman Daniels	Present
Committeeman Maybury	Present
Committeewoman Teleisa	Present
Committeeman Thorpe	Absent
Mayor Chang	Present

George Saponaro, Solicitor, was present.

Donna Ryan, Clerk/Administrator and Marion Karp, Deputy Clerk were present. The Mayor welcomed the students from Westampton Middle School and Holly Hills School, parents, guardians and friends.

Minutes of the 2/11/2014 meeting – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; second by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

Scheduled Appointments

6:00 PM – Workshop – Players Development Academy

7:00 PM – Awards Presentation – Essay and Artwork Contest for Black History Month 2014. It is the Mayor's honor to announce the winners of the contest; prior to announcing them she would like to acknowledge those who donated their time and funds to the contest. Committeewoman Trish Teleisa spent hours reading the essays. Ms. Teleisa commented that it was her pleasure to do so. Kent Pipes donated funds towards the purchase of the gift cards for the winners. TD bank and Christopher Livingston, bank manager donated funds towards the gift cards. The Chang family donated funds and also donated snacks for the students tonight. She commended each and every one of the students that submitted entries for the contest.

ESSAY: 4 WINNERS

1st Place: Alyecia Woods-Craig - Certificate & \$100.00 TD Bank gift card;
2nd Place: Jordyn-Paige Plair - Certificate & \$75.00 TD Bank gift card;
3rd Place: Rebecca Oliveri - Certificate & \$50.00 TD Bank gift card;

Honorable Mention: Alexis Starr Chester - 4th. Grade - Certificate & \$25.00 TD Bank gift card.

ART: 7 WINNERS

1st Place: Myaa Danielle Fulton - Certificate & \$100.00 TD Bank gift card;
2nd Place: Aaliyah Thompson- Certificate & \$75.00 TD Bank gift card;
3rd Place: Nia Plair - Certificate & \$50.00 TD Bank gift card;
4th Place: Saniya Srivastava - Certificate & \$35.00 TD Bank gift card;
Honorable Mention: Sean Dolan - Certificate & \$25.00 TD Bank gift card;
Honorable Mention: Nick Mastin - Certificate & \$25.00 TD Bank gift card;
Honorable Mention: Nicholas Foerter - Certificate & \$25.00 TD Bank gift card.

Comments on Agenda Items

Gil Gehin Scott – asked if the Committee could explain Ordinance 1 -2014 (Cap Bank/COLA Ordinance) in layman’s terms and what it meant.

Regarding Ordinance 2-2014, Mr. Gehin-Scott spoke regarding the fact that the Committee hasn’t yet made up their minds about approving this. The residents haven’t seen the 2014 budget nor the 6 commercial tax appeal settlements and their impact; so given those two things, he is concerned about voting now to spend money on the Sports Complex. He doesn’t think that spending \$1.4 million dollars on a turf field without polling the residents is a good idea. He thinks the introduction of the Ordinance is premature and should be tabled for now. He would like to see the residents polled on what they want and they haven’t done that.

Janet Curran - asked the Committee to hold off on the Bond Ordinance and finish what needs to be completed at the Sports Complex.

Old Business

None

New Business

Public Works Report – Mike Meenan thanked his Department; they had a lot of help from the Police department during the storms; he also thanked Craig Farnsworth. He spoke about the salt shortage; they ordered additional salt on Feb. 10th and still haven’t received it. The Committee appreciates the Public Works Department’s hard work.

Bureau of Fire Prevention Report – no further comments made

Police Report – Mr. Daniels commended the Chief and the Department and the incident that took place last weekend at the Getty gas station.

EMS Report – the Department has been dealing with fire truck mechanical issues.

Resolutions

32-14 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

Ordinances

1-2014 Establish Cap Bank/Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)(second reading) – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes. Donna explained that this is an amount of money that sits in the bank at the state level; it is good in case of an emergency. It is revenue driven and you hold this money in reserve. This Ordinance is passed every year and nearly all municipalities pass this. This was opened to the public for comment, no comment was made. All voted yes.

2-2014 Bond Ordinance (first reading) – Mr. Daniels made a motion to table this Ordinance; the motion was seconded by Ms. Teleisa. The Committee hasn't made up their mind absolutely. Usually there is no one at the meetings to express their opinions; however, this evening there were people in attendance that expressed their opinions. Mr. Daniels wants to make sure this is in the best interest of the community. All voted yes; the Ordinance would be tabled.

Correspondence

JIF 2013 Safety Incentive Program Awards – we received money to spend on safety items for the Township.

Dates to remember

JIF Elected Officials Seminar – 3/12/2014 @ Charley's Other Brother

Workshops

None

Comments

Daryl Caulfield – they are tracking more winter weather to start early this morning. It will be getting extremely cold again with another storm system coming Sunday into

Monday. They are working on their emergency operation plan; it is required every 4 years.

Mr. Daniels – thanked the Mayor and Ms. Teleisa for their work with the Black History contest. February is a benchmark month to honor African Americans; this year's theme was Civil Rights in America.

Ms. Teleisa – thanked the departments - Fire, EMS, Public Works and Police. It has been a tough winter; people's patience has been worn thin. There are 26 days until spring, she told Mike Meenan to hang in there.

Mayor Chang – it was absolutely an honor to read the essays that were submitted from Westampton Middle School students; it was clear in reading them that the students spent a significant amount of time on their projects. She is proud to be the Mayor and a resident of Westampton. She echoes Ms. Teleisa's comments regarding the Township Departments.

Open to public Comment

Gil Gehin Scott – appreciates the Committee tabling the Bond Ordinance. He asked if the essays and artwork will be available online; Mayor Chang answered that it will be. She would like to see them posted in the hallway of this building. He hopes the budget work is going well; he knows it is difficult. He asked if he could view the budget: Donna answered that she is nearly ready; as soon as the Committee is ready she would post it for introduction on March 11. It will be ready this week and she would post it online. He wondered why the Township eliminated the oil and filter drop offs as well as some other items. Mike Meenan explained that it had become a hazardous situation. Every day it took a crew an hour to clean up the items that people had dropped off.

Janet Curran – the children's work was outstanding.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Karp, Deputy Clerk